

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for selecting a public land mobile network to serve a mobile station,
2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving at the mobile station a list of data associated with networks
4 neighboring a PLMN currently serving the mobile station;

5 selecting a new PLMN to serve the mobile station from the PLMNs
6 neighboring the PLMN currently serving the mobile station based upon the list of data; and

7 changing the mobile station to the selected new PLMN.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the list of data further comprises a list of
2 PLMNs neighboring the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the list of data further comprises a list of
2 PLMNs adjacent to the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the list of data further comprises a list of
2 PLMNs within a selected distance of the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the list of data further comprises at least one
2 mobile country code associated with a network neighboring the PLMN currently serving the
3 mobile station.

1 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the
2 step of:
3 determining if the at least one mobile country code is associated with a
4 preferred PLMN of the mobile station; and
5 selecting the preferred PLMN of the mobile station as the new PLMN if the
6 mobile country code is associated with the preferred PLMN.

1 7. The method of Claim 5, wherein the preferred PLMN comprises a home
2 PLMN of the mobile station.

1 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving occurs only near a
2 border of a country.

1 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving occurs on a periodic
2 basis.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving occurs on a
2 substantially continuous basis.

1 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving occurs during
2 registration of the mobile station with a PLMN.

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12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving further comprises the

2 step of receiving the list of data in a MM information message.

1 13. A method for selecting a PLMN to serve a mobile station comprising the steps
2 of:
3 transmitting from a base station associated with a serving PLMN to the mobile
4 station a list of neighboring PLMNs;
5 selecting a new PLMN from the list of neighboring PLMNs as a new PLMN
6 to serve the mobile station; and
7 changing the mobile station to the new PLMN.

1 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the list of neighboring PLMNs further
2 comprises a list of PLMNs adjacent to the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 15. The method of Claim 13, wherein the list of neighboring PLMNs further
2 comprises a list of PLMNs within a selected distance of the PLMN currently serving the
3 mobile station.

1 16. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of transmitting occurs on a periodic
2 basis.

1 17. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of transmitting occurs on a
2 substantially continuous basis.

1 18. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of transmitting occurs during
2 registration of the mobile station with the serving PLMN.

1 19. The method of Claim 13, wherein the list of neighboring PLMNs further
2 includes access technology.

1 20. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the
2 steps of:
3 determining a better PLMN exists for serving the mobile station from the list of
4 neighboring PLMNs; and
5 scanning for the better PLMN.

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21. The method for selecting a preferred PLMN to serve a mobile station,
comprising the steps of:
transmitting from a base station associated with a serving PLMN to the mobile
station at least one mobile country code associated with a neighboring network;
selecting the preferred PLMN as a new serving PLMN if the at least one
mobile country code is associated with the preferred PLMN;
scanning for the preferred PLMN; and
changing the mobile station to the preferred PLMN.

22. The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the
step of:
determining if the at least one mobile country code is associated with the
preferred PLMN of the mobile station; and
selecting the preferred PLMN of the mobile station as the new PLMN if the
mobile country code is associated with the preferred PLMN.

23. The method of Claim 21, wherein the step of receiving further comprises the
step of receiving the list of data in a MM information message.

24. The method of Claim 21, wherein the preferred PLMN comprises a home
PLMN of the mobile station.

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25. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting further

comprises the step of transmitting from a base station near a border between first and second countries.

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1 26. A mobile terminal comprising:
2 circuitry for wirelessly connecting the mobile terminal to a serving PLMN
3 network;
4 a neighbor list containing data received from the serving PLMN enabling
5 selection of a PLMN neighboring the serving PLMN as a new serving PLMN; and
6 control logic for selecting the new serving PLMN responsive to the data of the
7 neighbor list.

1 27. The mobile terminal of Claim 26, wherein the neighbor list further includes a
2 list of PLMNs neighboring the serving PLMN.

1 28. The mobile terminal of Claim 26, wherein the neighbor list further includes a
2 list of PLMNs adjacent to the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 29. The mobile terminal of Claim 26, wherein the neighbor list further includes a
2 list of PLMNs within a selected distance of the PLMN currently serving the mobile station.

1 30. The mobile terminal of Claim 26, wherein the neighbor list further includes at
2 least one mobile country code of a neighbor network of the PLMN currently serving the
3 mobile station.